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GROUP 3600

Our Case No. 8285/314
(A00542)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Robert W. Bossemeyer, Jr. et al.

Serial No.: 09/407,126

Filing Date: September 27, 1999

For METHOD, SYSTEM, AND ARTICLE
FOR DETERMINING AN AVAILABILITY
OF A TELECOMMUNICATION
FEATURE

Examiner: Igor N. Borissov

Group Art Unit No.: 3629

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed a Preliminary Amendment, which accompanies Applicants' Request for Continued Examination, along with a request for a one-month extension of time to reply and appropriate fee. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to

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withdraw the objections and rejections to this application and to grant allowance of this application in view of the following remarks and amended claims.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 9, 10, 17 and 24-26, as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method comprising:

inquiring in a first transaction about a first telecommunication feature unavailable to a first party of a telecommunication network;

in accordance with the inquiring in the first transaction, storing a first data structure which identifies the first party of the telecommunication network and the first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party;

after storing the first data structure, and after completion of the first transaction, inputting availability data which indicates an availability of the first telecommunication feature to a portion of the telecommunication network which serves the first party; and

processing the first data structure and the availability data to determine that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

9. (Thrice Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first call from a first party of a telecommunication network; determining that a first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the first party;

informing, in the first call, that the first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the first party;

storing a first data structure which identifies the first party and the first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party;

receiving a second call from a second party;

determining that a second telecommunication feature is unavailable to the second party;